

#1 (MOST IMPORTANT! DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP! READ BEFORE YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT STARTING YOUR PROJECT.)

Make sure you begin saving up toilet paper rolls WEEKS before you begin your project. My partner and I ended up spending an hour and a half neatly unrolling toilet paper from 20 rolls because my mom wanted to save the toilet paper and not waste it. NOT cool.

#2

You can get most everything for this project at the dollar store. That way, it's cheap, and everybody loves a trip to the dollar store!

#3

If you're a glue stick person, fine. If you're a hot glue person, fine. Glue sticks and hot glue work equally for anchoring the toilet paper rolls to the platform.

#4

Make sure everything is colorful! Since the exhibit itself is not that big, it can easily be overlooked. Make everything FLASHY! It attracts the kids to the exhibit, and believe it or not, it attracts the parents too.

#5

Paint the cars as well as the toilet paper track. We painted the track like a road, and many people thought this was clever. We used construction paper to make the carts look more like actual cars.

#6

Believe it or not, the kids know more than the parents when it comes to this exhibit. For some reason, the parents always over think it and usually guess that the square wheels will work better. Don't make fun of them! Make them feel loved.

#7

High energy, high energy!! The kids get very distracted, very easily. At the beginning, Some of the kids actually walked away while we were talking. Make sure you use small words, and very few physics terms. Relate to them. In order to keep their interest, my partner and I said things like "Where's your favorite place in the whole wide world!?" When they answered, we asked them what car they would use to get it there the fastest.

#8

Make two carts, one with square wheels and one with round wheels. Although it seems like it will be harder to get the square wheels to roll smoothly, the round wheels are truly the challenge. Make sure the wheels are about the same size. This doesn't affect the smoothness, but some people think the size affects the physics.

#9

The instructions say use bamboo skewers as your axels. That's just a fancy word for toothpicks so don't panic!